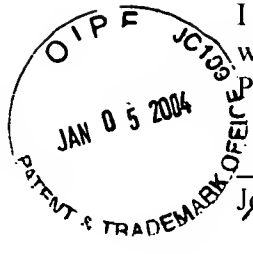


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Jodi Calderon
Jodi Calderon

Date 12-31-03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Don Vaughan et al Art Unit: 3753
Serial No. 09/998,060 Examiner: Stephen M. Hepperble
Filed: November 30, 2001 Confirmation No.: 5496
For: *Quiet Flow Control Washer for Water Softener or the Like*
Attorney Docket: 31.043 Customer No.: 23598

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED

JAN 13 2004

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed November 17, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 14 of this paper.

01/08/2004 HVUONG1 00000098 09998060

01 FC:2201
02 FC:2202

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72.00 OP